

## Superfund Site Activity Update

### Remedial Investigation Progress Report: Phase II Activities

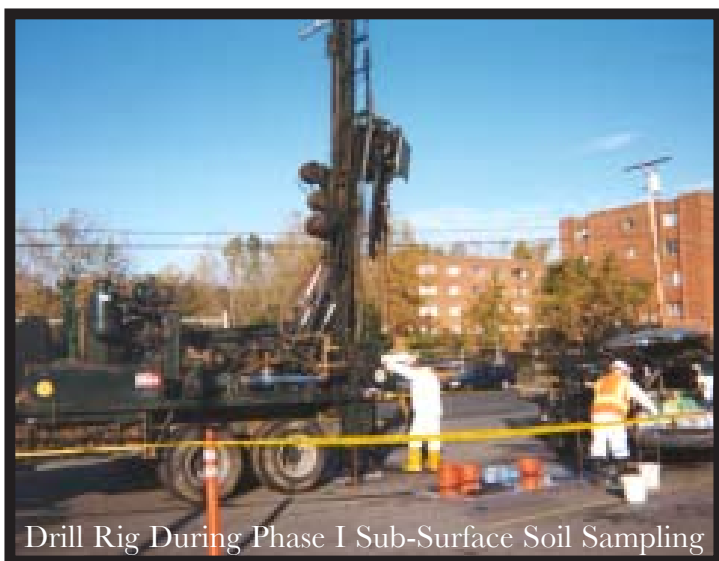
The **Superfund process**, conducted in several steps over multiple years, leads to the ultimate goal of providing a safe environment for the people living and working around the Scovill Industrial Landfill. The current step in the Superfund process is to better understand the site's contamination and any potential risks. A detailed study, the Remedial Investigation, is occurring in phases and is identifying the type and extent of the site's contamination. This investigation is also collecting the kind and amount of information needed to conduct human health and ecological risk assessments.

**Phase I of the Remedial Investigation** took place in Fall 2002. Those results were publicized in June 2003 and are available at the site's Waterbury repository at the Silas Bronson Li-

brary. Phase I sampling helped identify areas needing more testing.

**Phase II** will begin in April 2004, last for about six weeks, and will include:

1. **Surface Soil Sampling:**  
14 samples from 0-3 inches below the ground surface will be collected and sent to a laboratory for testing.
2. **Subsurface Soil Sampling:**  
27 additional soil borings or holes will be drilled from 4 inches to 20 feet deep or to below the bottom of the waste. Collected samples will be sent to a laboratory for testing.
3. **Sediment Sampling**  
5 samples from the wetland area will be collected and sent to a laboratory for testing to check the sediment quality.
4. **Groundwater Monitoring**  
3 shallow wells up to 20 feet deep will be drilled as well as 3 double wells. Each set of double wells will have 1 shallow (about 20 feet deep) and 1 deep (about 35 feet deep) well. In addition to these wells, a piezometer, or a gauge,



Drill Rig During Phase I Sub-Surface Soil Sampling

## What Neighbors Should Expect

- Most field work will be done during the workweek between 7 am and 7 pm.
- Workers will often wear protective clothing and face protection.
- A hollow stem auger, a large drill rig, will be used to drill sample holes (called bore holes) and wells throughout the site. A smaller drill rig may also be used.
- Air quality will be monitored at the bore hole and around the drill during drilling. Should unsafe levels be detected, all work immediately will stop.
- Bore holes will be repaired and the property restored to how it previously looked.
- There will be a trailer on the undeveloped portion of the site for office and storage space.
- Other subsurface work –like utility work– can happen at the same time as investigation activities, but it must be coordinated with EPA.
- It may be possible to see colored dye, which is not toxic, for a couple of days following the storm sewer survey.

will be installed to show the water table elevation. Laboratory analysis of samples from these wells will determine if groundwater is contaminated, and if so, the extent and type of contamination.

### 5. Soil Gas Sampling

9-13 sample locations will be tested to further investigate a single detection of perchloroethylene (PCE) found during Phase I soil sampling. This type of sampling uses a vacuum to draw up air trapped between the soil particles (“soil gas”) into a container, which is then sent to the laboratory for testing.

### 6. Storm Sewer Survey/Evaluation:

In order to confirm the location, condition, and discharge point of the sewer system that runs through the site, a small amount of non-toxic dye will be added to surface water at the site and used to trace the flow of water downstream. The dye test will also help assess the drainage of the site’s wetland.

Most of the samples collected during Phase II will be tested for volatile organic compounds (VOCs), semi-volatile organic compounds (SVOCs), polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), metals, pesticides, and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs). Some will also be tested for dioxin.

Surface soil, subsurface soil, and sediment sampling and analysis was done during the first phase of the investigation, but the results showed the need for more information. Phase II activities will mark the first time that groundwater and soil gas sampling, as well as storm sewer surveying, will be done.

## Background Levels of Contamination

It is not surprising in urban areas to be able to detect a range of chemicals in the air, water, or soil, even if the property isn’t a hazardous waste site. Chemicals are present simply because of the urban nature of the area. Because of



Exposure can occur when people eat, drink, breathe or have direct skin contact with landfill waste material.

At present, much of the Scovill Landfill material is covered either with a building, paved road, parking lot, or grass.

The site doesn't present an immediate public health risk, in its current condition, because direct contact with landfill waste materials is unlikely.

Digging, gardening or other activities that might expose landfill material should not occur.

the mixed use of land in developed areas, chemicals either historically or currently get released into the environment. These chemicals become part of the "background levels" that are detected in an area. It is unknown at this point how the levels of contamination being detected at the Scovill Industrial Landfill compare to the background levels of chemicals one would expect to find in the Waterbury area. To establish what background levels of chemicals are in the area, numerous samples will be collected during Phase II investigation activities from locations outside the site which also have residential and commercial uses.

### **Next Steps: Possible Phase III Investigation Activities**

After Phase II field work is complete, the results will be analyzed and a report will be compiled. EPA and CT Department of Environmental Protection will evaluate the data, publicly share the results, and determine if there is still a need for more information. If so, a Phase III investigation would follow in Spring 2005. Otherwise, the information gathered from Phase I and II will be used to develop human health and ecological risk assessments. These risk assessments identify current and potential future risk under various types of possible exposures. These assessments and the information from the complete investigation will help EPA decide if any action is needed at the site and if so, what needs to be done.



## Who is Doing the Work

After EPA finished Phase I, it issued an Administrative Order to Saltire Industrial, Inc. (a successor to Scovill Manufacturing Co.) and three other parties requiring them to finish the rest of the investigation. Saltire Industrial is complying with the Order and has hired a consulting company to continue the investigation. EPA will supervise Saltire and its consultant as it performs Phase II work.

## Assistance Available to the Community

EPA values your input. To help communities make informed decisions, EPA can award Technical Assistance Grants (TAGs) of up to \$50,000 per site. These TAGs enable communities to hire an independent expert to help them understand technical data and site hazards, and become more knowledgeable about the different technologies that are being used. Your community group may be eligible for a TAG. Contact Mike McGagh for more information at 1-888-372-7341, extension 1428. EPA strongly encourages communities to use this resource.

### For More Information Contact:

Almerinda Silva, U.S. EPA, Project Manager  
617-918-1246 or toll free 1-888-372-7341  
silva.almerinda@epa.gov

Stacy Greendlinger, U.S. EPA, Community Involvement  
617-918-1403 or toll free 1-888-372-7341  
greendlinger.stacy@epa.gov

Sheila Gleason, CT DEP, Project Manager  
860-424-3767  
sheila.gleason@po.state.ct.us

Meg Harvey, CT Dept. of Public Health, Epidemiologist  
860-509-7748  
margaret.harvey@po.state.ct.us

Dr. Dada Jabbour, Waterbury Dept. of Public Health, Director of Hazardous Materials,  
203-574-6998  
djabbour.wtby@snet.net

### SITE HISTORY

Located north of Meriden Road in Waterbury, CT, the former Scovill Industrial Landfill was used by the Scovill Manufacturing Company from 1919 until the mid-1970s for disposal of ash, cinder, and other wastes. Roughly 23 of the site's 30 acres have been developed with residential structures and small commercial buildings.

<b>Spring 1998</b>	CT Dept. of Environmental Protection removed 2,300 tons of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB) contaminated soil & an additional 18 capacitors. Temporarily capped area & fenced & posted four acres.
<b>April 1999</b>	EPA took soil samples 0 to 24 inches deep from 57 locations — found elevated levels of organic chemicals; metals such as cadmium, nickel, silver, and zinc; & PCBs. Indoor air sampling in limited number of homes didn't detect contamination.
<b>August 2000</b>	Added to EPA's National Priorities List (NPL - is a list of hazardous waste sites that are eligible for Federal funding to pay for extensive, long-term cleanup actions under the Superfund program).
<b>Sept. 2002</b>	Phase I of the Remedial Investigation began.
<b>June 2003</b>	Phase I Remedial Investigation results made public.